

breakneck speed, and unnecessarily, the war in Iraq and the rise of jihadism before and after September 11, 2001. One almost imagines that a few of the authors' previously published news articles wandered unbidden into the manuscript.

Their most sensational revelation concerns the case of Central Intelligence Agency employee Richard Barlow, who was discredited and drummed out of government service after blowing the whistle, beginning in 1987, on officials' attempts to downplay Pakistan's progress in acquiring nuclear weapons. Among other allegations, Barlow charged senior US State Department officials with tipping off the Pakistani government about US customs sting operations that were designed to stop Pakistan from smuggling out of the US items that might be useful for nuclear weapons. Although he received awards for his troubles, Barlow was allegedly shunned by his former colleagues. Monetary compensation authorized by the US Congress never materialized, and he reportedly languishes in a trailer park, still seeking redress.

Levy and Scott-Clark leave too many loose ends for their account of this case to be entirely convincing. They offer no plausible explanation for why senior State Department officials would commit treason to assist Pakistan or why legal charges were not pursued against them. Unlike Langewiesche, who ends his tome with some useful cogitation about the implications of what he has uncovered, Levy and Scott-Clark career to a stop when their chronological account runs out in 2007. Perhaps they, too, were exhausted by a depressing tale that has no heroes—with the possible exception of Barlow—and countless deceivers.

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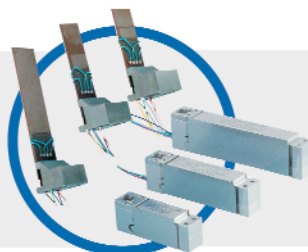
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